

THE MEDICAL NEWS AND LIBRARY.

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TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

MEDICAL REFORM.

Report of the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania for the year 1847; to the Alumni of the School. By the Medical Faculty. Philadelphia, 1847.

This report cannot be read by any Alumnus of the University of Pennsylvania, who entertains proper sentiments towards his time-honoured alma mater, without feelings of pride and satisfaction. The statement which is presented of the continued prosperity of the school is highly gratifying, while the course which the faculty have determined to adopt with the view of raising the character of the profession by improving the education of those who enter it, is worthy of the oldest and most respectable school in the Union.

To our respected alma mater belongs the honour of being the first to carry out the recommendations of the National Medical Convention, to extend the annual course of lectures; and the disposition which some other schools have expressed to follow this example is cheering for the cause of medical progress and improvement.

"Since the last annual communication of the Faculty," it is remarked in the report, "an occurrence has taken place of great

interest to the medical profession, and likely to exert no little influence over the future character of medical instruction in this country. A Convention of Physicians, representing medical bodies in almost all sections of the Union, assembled in Philadelphia in May last, to take into consideration the various interests of the profession, and to adopt measures calculated to sustain and elevate its character and usefulness. It is believed that, in relation to its numbers, and the standing of its individual members, the late Convention has never been equalled by any assemblage of medical men upon this continent. The recommendations of such a body are entitled to the highest respect; and, though it may not be practicable to carry them immediately into full effect, yet, as they have the general good only in view, it would appear to be incumbent on all to enter into their spirit, and by cordial efforts to prepare the way for the ultimate attainment of their objects. The faculty recognize this obligation, and propose to act in accordance with it.

"A prominent measure among those recommended by the Convention is the prolongation of the annual course of scholastic medical instruction to six months. The

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Faculty have long been sensible of the evils of the limited period generally allotted to their courses by the schools. It was adopted in the infancy of medical teaching in this country, and at a period when our science was much less expanded than at present. The rapid growth of medicine in almost all its branches, and especially the increased attention to the important subject of demonstration, have greatly multiplied the number of lectures; and, independently of these causes, the advancing wealth and intelligence of the country have called for a corresponding expansion of the means of knowledge in relation to one of its most important interests. Yet it has been deemed necessary to crowd this increased amount of instruction within the limits of time originally fixed; and the consequence has been that the lectures follow each other in such rapid succession, as to task unduly both the mental and physical powers of the pupil. It is only by a painful concentration of the attention, and the devotion of their whole time to study during the allotted period, to the exclusion of necessary rest and exercise, that even the most advanced students can follow satisfactorily the different courses; and the younger must necessarily be content with an imperfect understanding of the subject. There cannot be the least doubt, that, by spreading the same amount of instruction over a larger space of time, the student would gain a more than proportional increase of knowledge, with less strain upon his faculties, and less injury to his health.

"Influenced by considerations of this kind, the Medical Faculty attempted, so long since as the year 1836, to lengthen the course from four to five months, by continuing the lectures from the ordinary time of beginning in the first week of November, to the last of March; while they instituted preliminary lectures during the month of October; so that virtually the course of instruction was extended through six months, for all those who might find it convenient to attend. The attempt, however, met with only partial success. The preliminary lectures have been continued with greater or less regularity to the present time, and have been attended by classes varying from 100 to 250 in number. But, as the example of the University was not followed by other schools, which continued to terminate their sessions at the close of February, it was found impossible to retain the students of the first course

throughout the month of March; and the Faculty deemed it expedient to close their lectures in the middle of March, thus gaining two weeks upon the original length of the regular session, instead of the four weeks at first contemplated.

"With the support of the late Convention, and with the presumed countenance of the profession at large, the Faculty are disposed to make a fresh effort to accomplish this very desirable object. In Europe, the necessity of a period of scholastic instruction longer than the one habitual in this country, is universally recognized; and it is believed that in no distinguished medical school abroad is the annual session shorter than six months. There is certainly nothing in the condition of the United States which can justify their lingering reluctantly behind the communities of Europe in the means of promoting the knowledge of so important a science as that of medicine. There is as much wealth and intelligence diffused among the great masses of people in this country as abroad; and the pecuniary means of those who study for the medical profession, are probably on the average greater than those of the European student. Why, therefore, should we delay in widening our limits of instruction till they equal those of communities not more advanced in other respects? Will the world, will our posterity justify us in remaining voluntarily in a position of inferiority, which, independently of other weighty considerations, must affect the credit of our beloved country in cotemporary estimation and in history?"

The objection which may be urged against this extension of the term—that it will involve additional expense to the student—is obviated by the reduction in amount of fees for the course and for graduation, so that "even in a pecuniary point of view, the student will be benefited by the contemplated arrangement; while in every other respect his gain will be very great.

"It is admitted by the Faculty that, in adopting the present plan, they do so at the risk of diminishing the numbers of the class, and consequently their own emoluments. But they look to the profession for support in this attempt to elevate its character by improving the education of those about to enter it. They felt it incumbent upon them, as representing the oldest medical school in the country, to come forward and offer to the profession this opportunity of

carrying into effect what appears to be its own cherished wish, and is certainly in itself highly desirable. Should the attempt prove successful, other schools will probably come into the measure; and we may thus hope to witness a universal improvement of medical education in the United States. Should it fail, the Faculty will at least have the consolation of having acted in accordance with their sense of duty."

In regard to the qualifications for graduation, the Faculty state that "it has always been their wish, that the honours of the institution with which they are connected, should be more than nominal; that the degree of Doctor of Medicine in the University should be a true testimonial of respectable medical attainment. To this end their final examinations have always been directed. Without exacting of the student an amount of knowledge beyond what might be reasonably expected from ordinary industry applied during the regular period of study, they have aimed to exclude ignorance from the honours of the school; and they can confidently appeal to the general standing of the graduates as evidence of their success. As a particular instance, they may perhaps be permitted, without the imputation of undue boasting, to allude to the number of the graduates of the University who have distinguished themselves as public teachers, in the numerous medical schools which have sprung into existence during the last thirty years. That in time, under the influence of enlightened public sentiment, the standard of graduation may be still further elevated, is the sincere hope, and will be the honest endeavour of the Faculty, should their present efforts meet with the co-operation of the profession and the schools."

In closing their communication, the Faculty make the following strong appeal to the public spirit of the profession, and to which the latter cannot be so untrue to themselves as not to fully respond.

"Of themselves, they [the Faculty] can do no more than offer the means for an expanded system of medical instruction. Upon the profession itself, must depend the issue. At no time has there been a fairer opening for a combined effort to place the study and practice of medicine in that elevated position to which their nature and objects would appear to entitle them. Should this effort not be made, or should it fail from a want of hearty and united co-operation, the fear is that a condition of mediocrity will be fixed

upon this great interest of our country, and that for a long series of years, the friends of medicine, instead of working with the cheering prospect of a continued advance before them, will find themselves engaged in the irksome and discouraging task of withstanding the deteriorating tendencies of a mere business competition."

Progress of Medical Reform—We have already announced, that the University of Pennsylvania has determined to extend the lecture term, in accordance with the recommendations of the National Medical Convention. The example thus set has been promptly followed by the *College of Physicians and Surgeons of the University of the State of New York*, and other schools will find themselves obliged to do the same, or be content to sink to the position of second-rate schools, while their diplomas will be held, in the estimation of the public, of inferior value. The institution just mentioned has extended the term of lectures for the forthcoming session to five months; and an additional chair has been also instituted—physiology and pathology—to be filled by Dr. Alonzo Clark, now professor of pathology in Berkshire Medical College and Vermont Medical College. The new incumbent is one of the ablest and most accomplished lecturers in our country, and his accession to the school cannot but be productive of the best results.

The faculty of the Medical College of the State of South Carolina also express a willingness to adopt the recommendations of the Convention when other schools shall do so. In their annual circular they state: "The faculty cannot suffer the occasion to pass without expressing their unqualified approbation of the proceedings of the National Medical Convention, which was recently held in the city of Philadelphia. To the series of resolutions relating to the subject of 'a suitable preliminary education,' addressed to the profession at large—and those especially having reference to 'judicious reform,' and 'a uniform and elevated standard of requirements for the degree of M. D.,' addressed to the Medical Schools in particular throughout the United States—they give their cordial approval, and declare with promptitude their willingness to adopt them as soon as it shall appear that the generality of the schools are prepared to enter upon their practical enforcement."

The able editor of the *Buffalo Medical Journal*, who is himself a professor, advocates the extension of the lecture term. In the August number of his journal he remarks:—"The most important of the special acts of the Convention was the recommendation to medical schools to extend the term of lectures from four to six months. As to the great advantage which will accrue to medical instruction from adopting this course, we have no doubts. The present period is too limited for teachers to do justice to their several departments, without crowding into a given space, a greater amount of labour for the pupil than he can perform. The number of lectures now given daily at most medical institutions is greater than is compatible with proper attention and benefit on the part of the student, and, to some extent, also, with due devotedness on the part of the instructor. We believe such is the view generally entertained by those connected with medical institutions, and we do not doubt that they will be inclined to extend the term of lectures in conformity with the recommendation of the Convention. The necessity of all or nearly all the schools uniting in order to effect this change is obvious. It is not to be expected that a few will consent to extend their terms unless sustained by a similar action by the majority. It is natural and proper to look to some of the older metropolitan schools to take the lead in this matter. The University of Pennsylvania, the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, and the Boston school, for examples, should be among the first to move. We hope each or all these institutions will soon announce an intention to follow the recommendation of the Convention, and we are persuaded that other institutions will at once, or speedily, follow their example. It has been suggested, and with some force, that to extend the lecture term for the ensuing season to six months, might be considered to be acting in bad faith to those students who have attended one course of lectures under the present arrangement. In order to meet this objection, and to avoid the difficulties of a sudden change, we would suggest that for the next session, the term be extended to five months, notice being given in forthcoming circulars that after the ensuing session the sixth month will be added."

The following are given, in the *South-Western Medical Advocate*, as the senti-

ments of the Faculty of Memphis Medical College:

"The Faculty of the Memphis Medical College have not been indifferent and careless spectators of the efforts recently made to elevate the standard of medical education, in this country. The subject was frequently discussed during the past winter, at several meetings of that body, and a delegate was appointed to represent the school at the then contemplated and approaching Convention, to assemble in Philadelphia. Our representative went to the place of meeting, which he reached some days previous to the time appointed, but was constrained to return home, from unavoidable circumstances, before the organization of the Convention was effected.

"It is a source of pleasure and gratification to have this opportunity afforded us of publicly expressing ourselves in favour of the late actings and doings of the National Medical Convention. Although the Faculty of the Memphis Medical College enjoyed neither the pleasure of being personally present, or the privilege of being represented by a delegate, as above mentioned, they will, nevertheless, use their individual and united influence in sustaining every measure recommended by that body, having for its object either the present, or the ultimate advancement of medical education and reform."

An extension of the lecture term is advocated in the *Missouri Medical and Surgical Journal*, of which a professor in the University of Missouri is the principal editor, in the following language:

"We perceive by our exchanges, that the question of extending the course of medical lectures to six months (as recommended by the National Convention) instead of four months, is being agitated.

"For our own part we are in favour of the extension, as a wise provision. The attainment of the degree of M. D. is too easy, and is thus an inducement for uneducated and unprincipled men to become Doctors. The argument, on the other hand, that medical students become wearied out even in four months, with the college walls, and are anxious to return to their homes, is more specious than valid. The road to science is not an easy one, and he who is not willing to make heavy sacrifices, does not merit access to her fountains."

At the meeting of the Ohio State Medical

Convention at Columbus, in May last, the following resolutions were adopted :

Resolved, That this Convention highly approve of the doings of the late National Medical Convention, held at Philadelphia, and of the plan and object of the American Medical Association.

Resolved, That this Convention is fully aware of the necessity of reform and improvement, especially in the preliminary and medical education of candidates for medical degrees ; and that it pledges itself and the profession in Ohio, to the American Medical Association, and to our brethren throughout the Union, to co-operate, as far as possible, with them in any practicable measures having for their object so desirable an end.

Resolved, That the professors in the different medical colleges in the State of Ohio, be requested to report to the next Convention, what measures, if any, they have taken to carry out the recommendations made at the late meeting of the Medical Convention at Philadelphia.

Prof. Annan's Remarks on the Proceedings of the National Medical Convention.—Professor Annan, in his pamphlet noticed in our preceding number, maintains that new schools will spring up as the number of students augments, “and will any one,” he asks, “assert that if the competition is conducted in as *honourable a manner as can reasonably be expected—if no very dishonourable means are resorted to, to induce students to select particular schools—that the result will not be beneficial to medical science and to the community ?*”

Well may our cotemporary, *The Annalist*, in commenting on this, exclaim, “God help us if medical men are to arise in numbers such as these ; and if, to supply them with diplomas, medical schools, lax in their requirements, reasonably honourable only in conducting their competitions, using only no *very dishonourable means* at first to obtain students, and becoming necessarily more and more lax as new rivals spring up to dispute with them their sway, are to arise in every section of our land ! What, after a few years, will be our medical schools, and what our medical men ?”

SKETCHES AND ILLUSTRATIONS OF MEDICAL QUACKERY.

Inconsistency.—[In our number for May

last, p. 63, we noticed the promise required of graduates by the Laporte University, Indiana, to maintain the respectability of the profession,—not to put forth any nostrum or secret method of cure, or to publish matter derogatory of the profession. Judge of our surprise at seeing in one of the Philadelphia daily papers the following certificate to a secret nostrum, with the signature attached to it of a professor in that school ! Can it be possible that this letter is genuine ?]

✶ BOWEL COMPLAINTS, COLIC, &c., positively cured by JAYNE'S CARMINATIVE BALSAM.

CHICAGO, Ill., March 27, 1845.

Dr. D. Jayne—Dear Sir,—You ask me what proofs I meet with of the efficacy of your Carminative. I can safely say that I never prescribed a medicine for Bowel Complaints that has given me so much satisfaction, and my patients so speedy and perfect relief as this. Whenever introduced into a family, it becomes a standing remedy for those ailments, and is called for again, which I think is pretty good proof of its efficacy and usefulness.

In the Summer Complaint of children, it has frequently appeared to snatch the little victims, as it were, from the grave. “It saved the life of my child, and of such and such child,” I have repeatedly heard said. In dysenteric affections of adults, I have time and again seen it act like a charm, and give permanent relief in a few hours, I may say in a few minutes. In fine, it is a valuable medicine, and no family should be without it. Respectfully,

M. L. KNAPP, M.D.,

Professor of Materia Medica in the Laporte University, Indiana.

MEDICAL NEWS.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Peoria District Medical Society.—Pursuant to public notice a number of the regularly qualified practitioners of medicine of Peoria, Tazewell, McLean, Woodford, Putnam, Bureau, Stark, Knox, and Fulton counties, in the State of Illinois, met at the Court-house in the city of Peoria, on Tuesday the 13th of July, and organized the “Peoria District Medical Society.”

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—F. A. McNIEL, M.D.

Vice Presidents—A. G. HENRY, M. D.,
J. C. FRYE, M. D.

Recording Secretary—E. ANDREW, M. D.

Corresponding Secretary—JNO. MURPHY,
M. D.

Treasurer—E. DICKINSON, M. D.

Censors—Drs. R. ROUSE, E. M. COL-
BOURNE, T. P. ROGERS, H. H. SEXTON and
THOS. HALL.

The next meeting of the Society will be held at the Court-house, in the city of Peoria, on the first Tuesday of November next, to which all qualified physicians, desirous of becoming members, are invited to attend. The delegates to the American Medical Association will be appointed at the November meeting.

Regents of the University of the State of New York.—At a meeting of the Board on the 25th last, after hearing sundry testimonials of the medical standing of HENRY MARSHALL, deputy inspector-general of military hospitals in Great Britain, and now resident at Edinburgh, and of his valuable contributions to medical and general literature, it was resolved unanimously to confer on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine, and that a diploma under the seal of the University issue to that effect.

This is certainly a high but well merited compliment.

Prof. Warren.—The senior class of Harvard University have addressed a very complimentary letter to Dr. J. C. Warren on his resignation of the Hersey Professorship of Anatomy, expressive of the great pleasure they have received from listening to his lectures, the high regard they entertain for him, and of their sorrow at his resignation.

University of the City of New York.—Dr. S. HENRY DICKSON, of Charleston, S. Carolina, has been appointed to the chair of Practical Medicine, vacated by the death of Dr. Revere. Dr. Dickson has filled for more than twenty years the chair of Practical Medicine in the College of the State of S. Carolina. He is an experienced practitioner, an eloquent lecturer, and a gentleman of high professional attainments.

Medical College of the State of South Carolina.—Dr. GEDDINGS, at present the able professor of Surgery, will, we learn, be transferred to the chair of Practice of Medi-

cine, and that Dr. Bellinger will fill the surgical chair.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Air in the Uterine Cavity.—An anonymous correspondent of the *Medical Times*, (June 5th, 1847,) relates the following example of this:

A lady, of florid complexion and sanguineous temperament, concluded herself pregnant, and made the usual arrangement for the event, when suddenly at the supposed period of utero-gestation, a violent and distressing eruption of flatus from the uterus took place, accompanied with a loud report. The abdominal swelling immediately subsided. The discharge of flatus has been continued since daily, the symptoms being aggravated on the near approach of menstruation.

Injurious Effects of the Inhalation of Ether.—Dr. JAMES H. PICKFORD, of Brighton, says that etherization exerts a baneful influence on the blood and respiratory organs. The blood—robbed by ether of its oxygen; impoverished by the solution by the same agent of myriads of corpuscles, of those especially with which it comes into immediate contact; depreciated as a consequence in the quantity, and deteriorated in the quality, of its fibrine; intensely blackened by the solution of its corpuscles and their contained hæmato-globulin—is chemically deprived to a considerable extent of its powers of coagulation, and rendered unfit for the purposes of life. A black, vitiated blood circulates through the system, analogous in many particulars to that in putrid and malignant fevers. The impaired condition of the blood is not even partially corrected until respiration of atmospheric air has been permitted for some considerable time, and until lymph corpuscles have found their way into the circulation to replace those of the blood destroyed by the ether. In thirty fatal cases, following operations in which ether had been employed in the various hospitals in Dublin, eight were found to be the subjects of recent tubercles of the lungs, the undoubted product, it was believed, of inhalation.—*Med. Times*, June 26, 1847.

Cure of Nevus.—DIEFFENBACH says, in flat nævi, up to the size of a crown-piece, lint, steeped in pure liquor plumbi, is to be

fastened over the part with a bandage, and wetted by fresh applications of the lead without frequent removal. After days or weeks, the swelling becomes whiter, flatter, and firmer; soon afterwards, little, firm, white spots form on the surface, and the cure is certain. By means of a solution of alum and compression, nævi, so large that extirpation would have been impossible, have also been cured. It may be necessary to keep the remedy constantly applied for six months.—*Ib.*

French Medical Schools.—The number of students in the French Schools of Medicine in 1847, is estimated at about 1800. In the three Universities—

Paris	800
Montpellier	175
Strasburg	77

Among the Preparatory Schools—

Amiens . . 48	Lyons . . 73
Angers . . 37	Marseilles . 38
Arras . . 32	Nancy . . 32
Besauçon . . 39	Nantes . . 45
Bordeaux . . 51	Orleans . . 36
Caen . . . 22	Poitiers . . 24
Clermont . . 28	Rennes . . 70
Dijon . . . 30	Rouen . . 42
Grenoble . . 31	Toulouse . 72
Limoges . . 32	Tours . . 41

Lond. Med. Gaz., March 5, 1847.

Increase of Fever in Ireland.—Fever is committing great ravages in Ireland. The accounts from Kerry, Galway, Roscommon, and Longford, are of an extremely unfavourable character. In the union workhouse of the latter county the number of deaths in the year ending the 1st of April, 1846, was 112, while for the corresponding period this year they amounted to 677.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.*

Ether in Mania.—In the licensed lunatic wards of the St. Marylebone Infirmary, Dr. Boyd has tried the inhalation of sulphuric ether in four cases, one chronic and three acute, of violent mania, amongst females, with excellent effect, and without any unfavourable results. The tranquillizing effect was produced at various intervals of from two to ten minutes; at a time, too, when the patients were unusually violent. All of them appeared to become intoxicated. Before this effect was fully produced, their anger in every instance seemed turned to

joy—a soporific effect was the utmost that was produced in any case. The patient in whom it was administered for the longest time felt the prick of a lancet on the opening of a small abscess. Two of the patients slept well on that night. In the other two, the effects were only temporary; one of them became talkative and troublesome again in a few minutes, but was less violent than at first. The ether was administered by means of a hollow sponge, just large enough to cover the mouth and cartilages of the nose, the opposite end of the sponge having been previously moistened with half an ounce of ether, the same that is used in the ether apparatus previous to operations. A sponge may be a more wasteful way of using the ether; but the difficulty of applying the instrument in cases of insanity would be often very great. Some who have opportunities may feel inclined to test the efficacy of ether in such cases as those above mentioned.—*Lancet*, Aug. 14, 1847.

Successor of Lisfranc.—M. LAUGIER, surgeon to the hôpital Beaujon, has been appointed surgeon of La Pitié in the place of Lisfranc; and Mr. Huguier, of the hôpital Louvaine, replaces M. Laugier at Beaujon.

Mode of administering Aperients to Children.—Phosphate of soda may be used conveniently as a condiment in soup in the place of common salt. Children may be unconsciously beguiled into the taking of the medicine in this way, and it will be found an excellent purgative.—*Med. Times*, June, 1847.

Carminatives and Tonics.—Cullen's opinion was that coriander-seeds correct better than any other carminative the griping effects of senna. Cascarilla, says Dr. Dick, is an excellent aromatic tonic, which agrees with most stomachs. It may be either given by itself, or else conjoined to stronger tonics or purgatives. Thus it corrects the cold and griping tendency of senna and neutral salts. In a course of tonics we may often advantageously commence with cascarrilla, and go on to gentian and quinine.—*Ibid.*

Diagnostic Sign of Tubercular Accretion of the Peritoneum.—Dr. SEYMOUR regards vomiting of a peculiar matter, if a green, so dark that it is only to be compared with that which the sea acquires at great depths—a

blue as intense nearly as that of indigo; deep green when regarded in one way, blue in another, as diagnostic of tubercular accretion of the peritoneum. Dr. Seymour says this disease is generally confounded with mesenteric disease; but that it is much more frequent—in the ratio, according to his experience, of five to one. This disease he considers as not absolutely incurable, while he considers iodine to be the remedy on which the chief reliance is to be placed. Mercurials are considered to be injurious.—*Ibid.*

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Etherization of Vegetables.—M. CLEMENS, of Vevay, has ascertained experimentally that plants are as easily brought under the influence of ether as animals. He found that the stamens of *Berberis vulgaris* exposed to the vapour for one minute in the sun, and for three minutes in the shade, at a temperature of 59°, entirely lost their irritability, and this did not return until after the lapse of about half an hour. The *mimosa pudica* was not completely etherized until after the lapse of eight or ten minutes in the sun, and a longer period in the shade. The plant remained in a complete state of insensibility (inirritability) for two hours. Of all the ethers the sulphuric and acetic were found to have the most powerful action.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.*

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M. Malgaigne.—This eminent surgeon has just been elected a member of the Chamber of Deputies by one of the electoral districts of Paris.

—
Quarantine Congress.—It is rumored that a congress is about to be assembled at Genoa, for the improvement of the laws of quarantine, in so far as they affect the Mediterranean States.

—
Influence of the Weather on Health.—Dr. CASPAR, professor in the University of Berlin, in his essay on this subject, gives the following practical conclusions:—In Berlin, while the month of January is the least, December is the most, favourable to health. The greatest number of deaths occur in spring, and the smallest number in summer. Extremes of temperature are dangerous to life. A high barometrical pressure tends to increase, while a low pressure tends to decrease, the rate of mortality. The influence of atmospheric pressure on human life varies

in different seasons. No condition of the air is so dangerous to life as dry cold. On the contrary, humid cold has the greatest tendency to support life. Of all seasons of the year, the winter gives rise to the greatest number of cases of inflammatory diseases, while the spring is most fatal to them, especially to cases of pneumonia. Cold winters, warm springs, summers, and autumns, increase the danger and fatality attendant on inflammation attacking the brain and respiratory organs, and *vice versâ*. The maximum mortality from phthisis occurs in spring, and after this season in winter. The minimum mortality in autumn and winter. Variations in the state of the atmosphere appear to exert but little influence upon the relative number of deaths from phthisis. Nervous fever is most frequent and fatal in autumn—least frequent and fatal in spring. The influence of weather and season on health varies with the different periods of life. This influence is most marked in the ages of infancy and puberty, but it is least marked in the first septennial period of existence. From the twentieth year upwards, the winter is the most dangerous, and the summer the most favourable, season to life and health; and the older the individual the more striking is this difference.—*Med. Times, Aug., 1847.*

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Psoriasis Inveterata.—Dr. ROMBERG found the aqua picis liquidæ to effect a cure when all other means failed. The aqua was prepared by pouring a quart of cold water over a pound of pitch, and leaving it to stand for twenty-four hours in a cool place; and a beer-glass of the water, filtered through paper, is to be taken every morning fasting, and the parts affected to be bathed with it twice or three times a day. Its use may be continued for months, the only apparent effects resulting being slight diuresis. Six cases are related in proof of the great efficacy of this remedy.

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Obituary Record.—The French medical profession has lost another of its distinguished members, by the death of M. CASIMIR BROUSSAIS, son of the illustrious Broussais. He died of the same disease as his father, aged but 44 years. He had served in the army, and was chief physician to the hospital of Gros-Caillou.

Died, near Edinburgh, on the 9th of August, Dr. ANDREW COMBE.